

LINKS Participation Agreement

Student name: _____

Student signature: _____

Parent/caregiver name: _____

Parent/caregiver signature: _____

By signing this document the student and parent/ caregiver agrees to abide by the expectations written on the previous page.

Best contact number/s:

Name: _____

Number: _____

Email address: _____

Name: _____

Number: _____

Email address: _____

What if I don't want my child to be in LINKS?

The choice is yours. Children are identified by a number of methods and careful consideration is given when offering a place in the program.

If you do not wish to have your child placed in the LINKS class, please let us know. We would like to be able to offer the place to another student.

What if my child improves their grades?

Many students have benefited from the LINKS program and have improved their grades. In consultation with both the student and parents/caregivers they are offered the opportunity to transfer out of LINKS and enter a mainstream class. These movements usually occur at the end of Semester 1 or at the beginning of the following year.

Further questions?

If you would like to know more about the program please contact Jodie Fitzsimmons at the College on 9262 7777.

Notes



LINKS PROGRAM

The LINKS program at Ballajura Community College has a number of benefits for students which include:

- Differentiated curriculum and assessments
- Strong pastoral care program
- Highly trained and motivated teachers
- Smaller class size
- Individual education plans
- Engaging curriculum
- Opportunity to fill current educational gaps
- Slower pace of lessons to practice and master new skills and knowledge
- 21st Century learning using state of the art interactive whiteboards





What is LINKS?

LINKS is a specialised program offered at Ballajura Community College that addresses the specific learning needs of students in years 7 and 8.

These specific needs are broad in range and include both academic and emotional requirements.

We provide a strong pastoral care focus which supports and encourages positive experiences at and within school. Selected students are invited to participate in this unique program and participation is optional.

A variety of teaching methods are employed to provide each student with as many opportunities to understand new concepts as possible.

How does the program work?

Students work closely with a few teachers. This promotes strong pastoral care which is at the core of our business. By building strong relationships within the classroom environment students are more likely to gain the confidence needed to extend their knowledge.

Our teaching staff have been carefully selected as they offer a depth of content knowledge and possess great awareness of working with students who learn in different ways. The LINKS team uses 21st Century teaching methods through the use of state of the art interactive whiteboards.

Our programs are differentiated to take into account the specific learning needs of our students. We still align with the Australian Curriculum and focus on the achievement of a C grade standard. This provides our students with the opportunity to spend more time on fewer concepts, enabling them to practice and master the skills needed to obtain a C grade by the end of the year.

How does it differ to the mainstream program?

Mainstream programs provide scope for achieving the higher grades. Lessons start with a C grade focus and work through to the B and A graded criteria. This means that students work at a faster pace in order to achieve the higher grades. Most students in the mainstream program possess the appropriate foundations to successfully cope with the increased pace and difficulty.



LINKS Participation Agreement

The LINKS program is a unique opportunity targeting specific educational needs and is only offered to a small number of students. To ensure the success of the program and its participants please read and sign the following participation agreement.

I understand that to remain in the LINKS program my child will need to comply with the following expectations:

- ☐ **Attendance:** Attend school and all classes every day. Absences for illness will be explained by phone, letter or email.
- ☐ **Punctuality:** Be on time to all timetabled classes, including Home Room and whole school subjects.
- ☐ **Uniform:** Wear correct uniform daily.
- ☐ **Behaviour:** Behave appropriately at all times.
- ☐ **Materials:** Maintain a good supply of consumables and purchase all required items from the LINKS booklist.
- ☐ **Work completion:** Complete all work as required by the classroom teacher.

You will have the opportunity to discuss progress at the Interim Reporting Day towards the end of Term 1, at the Semester 1 Reporting Day or by phone or face to face interview when required.

We hope that your child will aim to maximise his/her performance in the LINKS program at Ballajura Community College.

Jodie Fittsimmons

Deputy Principal